R E M A R K S

Applicant has amended claims 40 and 41 to properly refer back to amended claim 39. Accordingly, the rejection to claims 40 and 41 should now be withdrawn.

All of the independent claims 1, 29, 33, 36 and 39 have been amended based on the Examiner's statement on pages 2 and 3 of the office communication that the claims need to be further amended "if it is intended for the instant invention to pair multiple security modules to a single reception equipment and have each actively paired wherein each of the modules can be swapped out for another module…". The above feature is now clearly recited in each of the above claims.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 5-8, 10-18, 24-32, 36-41 and 43-47 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 6,405,369 to Tsuria in view of US Publ. 2006/0161976 to Kahn et al, should now be withdrawn.

Moreover, to further emphasize the distinction between the subject invention and the teaching of Tsuria, applicant added the word "concurrently" before the word "pairing" as well as to indicate that each security module which is actively paired can be swapped out for another module while the data reception equipment maintains the pairing with each of the security modules.

The subject application clearly teaches the concurrent pairing of a decoder residing in one unique digital data reception equipment with a plurality of different external security modules. The pairing of a decoder with a number of authorized cards from a list of authorized cards is clearly taught on pages 20-22 of the subject

application. More specifically on page 20, lines 14-26, explains pairing in terms of the number of "NBCA" (number of authorized cards) which a decoder is authorized to memorized as follows:

"NBCA (Number of authorized cards): this parameter imposes the maximum number of card identifiers that a decoder is authorized to memorize; when it is not defined, NBCA is defined by implementation of the software module in the decoder according to the invention"

Moreover, as set forth on page 22 of the specification, lines 16-30, the list of authorized ("NBCA") cards which the decoder memorizes is defined as follows:

- LCA (List of authorized cards): this parameter imposes the list of card identifiers with which it can operate, to a decoder "

Indeed, according to the invention (see page 22, line 16-30), "If the matching function in the decoder is in the active state 70, the access control software reads the identifier of the card and checks (step 84) if this identifier of the inserted card is already memorized in the decoder 2. If the identifier of this card 6 is already memorized in the decoder 2, the access control software 4 will operate with the inserted card (step 92). In this case, access to broadcast programs is then possible, subject to conformity with other access conditions attached to these programs,

If the identifier of this card 6 is not memorized in the decoder 2, the access control software checks (step 86) if the number of card identifiers 6 previously memorized is less than the maximum value NBCA of cards 6 authorized by the

configuration.....

If this number NBCA is not reached, the identifier of the card 6 inserted in the reader of the decoder 2 is added to the list of memorized identifiers (step 88).

The references Tsuria and Kahn do not relate to the concept of "<u>**concurrently pairing of a single decoder with a plurality of different external security modules**</u>" as is claimed in each of the independent claims.

Tsuria relates to a method for activating the decoding of pay television transmissions in a **second decoder** when said pay television transmissions are already decoded by a first smart card in a first decoder (see col, 1, lines 61-65).
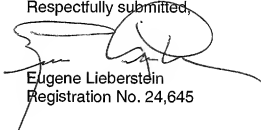
The decoding by the second smart card in the second decoder is possible only if there is a match between one of signature, a key and a seed identifying the first smart card and a corresponding one of signature, a key and a seed identifying the second smart card (see col. 3, lines 1-5).

For all of the above reasons, claims 1, 29, 33, 36, 39 and 42 are clearly patentable over Tsuria, taken alone or in combination with Kahn et al or alternatively in combination with Cocchi '967. The teaching of Cocchi deters one of ordinary skill in the art from pairing a number NBCA of smart cards with a single decoder, in order to allow the use of anyone of the smart cards to access to broadcast programs. Cocchi merely aims at preventing the cloning of a CAM. All of the other claims depend upon the independent claims and are believed patentable for the same reasons as given above.

In view of the fact that applicant has amended all of the independent claims to incorporate the language relating to the feature of concurrently pairing a single decoder with a plurality of different external security modules as suggested by the Examiner, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 5-8, 10-18 and 24-47 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment is being submitted to the USPTO via EFS Web, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on November 15, 2011.

By_____

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